WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   An electronic camera comprising:

an imaging unit for generating image data by taking a subject image;

a lossless compression unit for generating compressed data by performing substantial lossless compression on the image data generated by the imaging unit;

a compression judging unit for judging whether an amount of the compressed data exceeds a predetermined threshold value; and

a recording unit for recording the image data uncompressed in a recording medium when the amount of the compressed data exceeds the threshold value, and for recording the compressed data in the recording unit when the amount does not.

2.   The electronic camera according to claim 1, further comprising

a remaining capacity determining unit for judging magnitude of a remaining capacity or the number of remaining frames of the recording medium, and for judging whether the remaining capacity has a margin, and wherein

said recording unit records said compressed data in the recording medium irrespective of the amount of the compressed data, when the remaining capacity determining unit has judged that the remaining capacity of the recording medium has a margin.

3.   The electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein said threshold value is an amount of data needed in recording the image data uncompressed.

4.   The electronic camera according to claim 1, further comprising a remaining-frames managing unit for calculating, as the number of remaining frames, a quotient by dividing a remaining capacity of the recording medium by the threshold value, and for judging whether shooting can be continued according to the number of remaining frames.

5.   The electronic camera according to claim 4, further comprising a buffer memory for

temporarily storing a plurality of said image data generated by the imaging unit, wherein

said remaining-frames managing unit calculates, as the number of rapid-shooting-possible frames, a quotient by dividing a remaining capacity of the buffer memory by the amount of the image data and judges whether shooting can be continued according to a smaller number of the number of remaining frames and the number of rapid-shootable frames.